

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 3, and 22 are amended. Claim 3 is amended editorially to correct a typographical error. The revisions to claims 1 and 22 are supported, for example, at page 14, lines 1-16 in the specification. Claims 1-22 are pending, with claims 1 and 22 being independent.

Claim 3 has been objected to by the Examiner. Applicants have editorially amended claim 3 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 15-17, and 22 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,886,964 (Fujita). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an optical head device that is configured to carry out reproduction or recording with respect to a plurality of optical information recording media of various types of pit rows or guide grooves. A plurality of semiconductor lasers are provided so as to correspond respectively to the plurality of optical information recording media of various types of pit rows or guide grooves. The plurality of semiconductor lasers are disposed so that beam spots, formed on the optical information recording medium, of light beams emitted from the plurality of semiconductor lasers are aligned substantially parallel to a pit-row direction or a guide groove direction in the optical information recording medium.

By this arrangement, even when an objective lens shifts to follow a track in a radial direction in the optical disk, a radial-shift characteristic of the optical disk varies symmetrically with respect to the neutral position of the objective lens. Accordingly, a stable tracking operation can be performed without regard to which semiconductor laser is used. Therefore, the optical head device can accurately perform reproduction or recording with respect to a plurality of optical information recording media.

Fujita does not disclose or suggest at least the above features of claim 1. Fujita is directed to an optical head tracking error detection device. Fujita does not teach or suggest an optical head device that can perform reproduction or recording with respect to a plurality of optical information recording media. Rather, Fujita discloses a method for tracking a servo operation with respect to an optical disk of a single format—not a plurality of optical information

recording media. The use of two light sources (16 and 17) of a different wavelength in Fujita is only to prevent interference with each other and not to allow the optical head to function with a plurality of optical information recording media. *See, e.g.*, Figure 1. Thus, Fujita is not capable of reproduction or recording with respect to a plurality of optical information recording media of various types of pit rows or guide grooves as recited in claim 1.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Claims 2, 3, and 15-17 depend from claim 1, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 22 is directed to an optical recording and reproducing apparatus comprising an optical head device. The optical head device of claim 22 has the same features as those recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 22 is believed allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as provided above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, and 15 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,018,127 (Ando). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ando does not disclose or suggest at least the above features of claim 1. Ando is directed to a light emitting apparatus having a plurality of light emitting points. However, Ando does not teach or suggest an optical head device that can perform reproduction or recording with respect to a plurality of optical information recording media. Rather, Ando discloses two semiconductor laser structures, one for recording/reproduction (70-1) and one for data erasing (70-2). *See, e.g.*, Figure 7 and col. 4, lines 24-29. This structure is intended for use with an optical disk of a single format—not a plurality of optical information recording media. Thus, Ando is not capable of reproduction or recording with respect to a plurality of optical information recording media of various types of pit rows or guide grooves as recited in claim 1.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Claims 2, 6, 12, and 15 depend from claim 1, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 1-11 and 19 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,512,608 (Ohyama). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, Applicants will provide the Examiner with a verified translation of the priority application for the present U.S. application, thereby removing Ohyama as a reference. In particular, Ohyama has an effective prior art date of December 15, 2000 while the priority application of the present application has an effective date of March 14, 2000. The verified translation will be submitted by separate paper shortly.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-11 and 19 should be withdrawn.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 13 stands rejected being unpatentable over Ohyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,084,843 (Abe). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ohyama has been removed as a prior art reference. Abe is directed to an optical recording and reproducing apparatus and method. However, Abe does not teach or suggest at least the features discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 13 depends from claim 1, and is believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 14 stands rejected being unpatentable over Ohyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,646,975 (Uchizaki). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ohyama has been removed as a prior art reference. Uchizaki is directed to a semiconductor laser array. However, Uchizaki does not teach or suggest at least the features discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 14 depends from claim 1, and is believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 18 stands rejected being unpatentable over Ando, Fujita, or Ohyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,637 (Ootaki). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ohyama has been removed as a prior art reference. Ootaki is directed to an optical pickup device. However, Ootaki does not teach or suggest at least the features discussed above with respect to claim 1. Nor does Ootaki remedy the deficiencies of Ando or Fujita as discussed above. Claim 18 depends from claim 1, and is believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 20-21 stand rejected being unpatentable over Ohyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,552,990 (Kajiyama). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

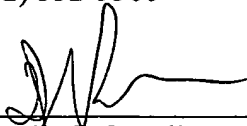
Ohyama has been removed as a prior art reference. Kajiyama is directed to an optical pickup device. However, Kajiyama does not teach or suggest at least the features discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 20-21 depend from claim 1, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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